

STRIKERS

Purpose: This category explains how going on strike affects a client's eligibility for food assistance benefits. A client's eligibility for medical assistance is not affected by the client being on strike.

Effective January, 2000

WAC 388-480-0001 How being on strike effects food assistance benefits.

- (1) A strike is a work stoppage, slowdown or other interruption of work caused by employees. You are not considered to be on strike if you are:
 - (a) Locked out by your employer;
 - (b) Unable to work because work is not available as a result of striking employees;
 - (c) Not a member of the bargaining unit on strike and you fear someone may physically hurt you if you cross a picket line; or
 - (d) Exempt from work registration [on] the day before the strike for any reason other than being employed over thirty hours per week.
- (2) If you apply for food assistance you will not be eligible if you are on strike unless:
 - (a) Your household met all income and resource eligibility standards the day before the strike; and
 - (b) You are otherwise eligible at the time you apply.
- (3) You will not receive an increase in your food assistance benefits solely due to receiving less income as a direct result of being on strike.

CLARIFYING INFORMATION

1. A striking member's pre-strike income or current income, whichever is higher is budgeted to determine the household's benefits.
2. Strikers who are receiving food assistance benefits must register for work unless

they are exempt for reasons other than employment.

3. Steps to determine income eligibility for strikers:
 - a. Compare the striking member's pre-strike income to the member's current income;
 - b. Add the higher of the two amounts to the current income of the non-striking household members;
 - c. Use deductions for the month of application;
 - d. Allow earned income deductions for the striker's pre-strike earnings or current earnings.

WORKER RESPONSIBILITIES

Request the necessary verification to establish the client is, or is not, participating in a strike.

ACES PROCEDURES

1. **On Strike (Applicant)**
 - a. If an applicant reports that they are on strike, determine if the AU would have been income and resource eligible prior to the day of the strike.
 - (1) If the client would not have been eligible prior to the strike, deny the application. See **NOTICES and LETTERS** for instructions on creating a denial letter.
 - (2) If the client would have been eligible, process the application. See **APPLICATIONS** for further instructions.

2. **Processing Application and Budgeting Pre Strike Income**

Note: The (Striker Status) field does not impact striker eligibility or benefit calculation for clients applying for or receiving food assistance. You must determine eligibility independent of ACES.

- a. A striker or potential striker does not have a job end date. Do not complete the (End Date) field on the (EARN) screen.
- b. A striker is not considered to have voluntarily quit a job. Do not complete the (Voluntary Quit) field on the (EARN) screen.
- c. If a client applies for food assistance only, use VV [EI] for the income type code when you budget current or pre-strike income.
- d. If a client applies for both TANF and food assistance benefits and you are budgeting pre-strike income for the food assistance use:
 - (1) [EI] for the client's current income; and
 - (2) [FS] for the amount of pre-strike income that is in excess of the current income.
 - (3) For example: A client is found eligible for TANF and food assistance. The striker's pre-strike income is \$1000.00 per month. The striker's current income is \$200.00 per month. You would code \$200.00 as [EI] and \$800.00 as [FS]. The net effect is that \$200.00 gets counted against the TANF grant and \$1000.00 gets counted against the food assistance benefits.
- e. For "medical assistance only" on the (EARN) screen, use valid value [MA], Other MA Countable when budgeting earned income.

3. **Budgeting Strike Benefits/Active Picket Duty Income**

(Strike Benefits/Active Picket Duty is income paid to a client for participation in a strike.)

- a. For cash and medical assistance programs use valid value [SB] in the (Income Type) field of the (EARN) screen. The income is considered earned income.
- b. For food assistance, use valid value [WU], Non Wage Compensation From Work/Union in the (Income Type) field of the (UNER) screen. The income is considered unearned income.